09/835,504

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 20, and 21.

Add new claims 22-31 as follows:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (new): A method of processing a document, the method comprising:

scanning the document to capture digitized image data which is representative of an image of the document;

calculating a first value based upon a first image data portion which is representative of at least a portion of a corner of the document image;

calculating a second value based upon a second image data portion which is representative of at least a portion of the corner of the document image;

comparing the first calculated value with a first predetermined threshold value to determine if the corner of the document image is missing; and

comparing the second calculated value with a second predetermined threshold value to determine if a missing corner of the document image is the result of a fold after the corner is determined to be missing based upon the comparison of the first calculated value with the first predetermined threshold value.

23. (new): A method according to claim 22, further comprising:

selecting a third predetermined threshold value which is different from the first predetermined threshold value when a missing corner of the document image is unable to be determined to be the result of a fold;

comparing the first calculated value with the third predetermined threshold value to determine if a corner of the document image is missing; and

comparing the second calculated value with the second predetermined threshold value to determine if a missing corner of the document image is the result of a fold after the corner is determined to be missing based upon the comparison of the first calculated value with the third predetermined threshold value.

2

24.   (new): A method according to claim 23, wherein the second predetermined threshold value is different from the first predetermined threshold value.

25.   (new): A method according to claim 22, further comprising:

concluding that the document image is unusable when a missing corner of the document image is determined to be the result of a fold.

26.   (new): A method of processing a document, the method comprising:

scanning a document to capture pixel data which is representative of an image of the document;

calculating a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document image;

calculating a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image;

determining if the corner of the document image is missing based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image; and

if the corner in the document image is determined to be missing, determining if the missing corner is the result of a fold based upon the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image.

27.   (new): An apparatus comprising:

means for scanning a document to capture digitized image data which is representative of an image of the document;

means for calculating a first value based upon a first image data portion which is representative of at least a portion of a corner of the document image;

means for calculating a second value based upon a second image data portion which is representative of at least a portion of the corner of the document image;

means for comparing the first calculated value with a first predetermined threshold value to determine if the corner of the document image is missing; and

3

means for comparing the second calculated value with a second predetermined threshold value to determine if a missing corner of the document image is the result of a fold after the corner is determined to be missing based upon the comparison of the first calculated value with the first predetermined threshold value.

28.   (new): An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

means for selecting a third predetermined threshold value which is different from the first predetermined threshold value when a missing corner of the document image is unable to be determined to be the result of a fold;

means for comparing the first calculated value with the third predetermined threshold value to determine if a corner of the document image is missing; and

means for comparing the second calculated value with the second predetermined threshold value to determine if a missing corner of the document image is the result of a fold after the corner is determined to be missing based upon the comparison of the first calculated value with the third predetermined threshold value.

29.   (new): An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the second predetermined threshold value is different from the first predetermined threshold value.

30.   (new): An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

means for concluding that the document image is unusable when a missing corner of the document image is determined to be the result of a fold.

31.   (new): An apparatus comprising:

means for scanning a document to capture pixel data which is representative of an image of the document;

means for calculating a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document image;

4

09/835,504

means for calculating a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image;

means for determining if the corner of the document image is missing based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image; and means for, if the corner in the document image is determined to be missing, determining if the missing corner is the result of a fold based upon the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document image.

5